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PATENT
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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: SHIMIZU, Hiroyuki et al.
Int'l. Appl. No.: PCT/JP98/01470
Appl. No.: New Group:
Filed: April 24, 2000 Examiner:
For: METHOD FOR INHIBITING DECOMPOSITION
OF NATRIURETIC PEPTIDES AND
IMPROVED METHOD FOR ASSAYING
NATRIURETIC PEPTIDES WITH THE USE
OF THE SAME

#3/A
9/4/00
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

April 24, 2000

Sir:

The following Preliminary Amendments and Remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Before line 1, insert -- This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP98/01470 which has an International filing date of March 31, 1998, which designated the United States of America. --